(b) the Centre's policy with regard to expediting the decision with regard to take over of Defence Ministry or otherwise?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) A proposal for Rehabilitation-cum-Financial Restructuring of Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) is under consideration of the Government. A Group of Ministers (GoM) constituted in this regard, has considered it and made certain recommendations. The recommendations of the GoM shall be placed before the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) for consideration and Approval.

Ganga Express Highway Project

†2289. SHRI BANWARI LAL KANCHHAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of Ganga Express Highway Project of Uttar Pradesh Government;

(b) the total expenditure to be shared by the Central Government/State Government with regard to Ganga Expess Highway Project;

(c) whether Central Government has taken into account the even/odd circumstances with regard to the above said project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) This Ministry is primarily responsible for the development and maintenance of National Highways in the country. The Ganga Expressway Project is a State road project to be taken up by Government of Uttar Pradesh on Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) mode. State Government did not propose to seek any support from Central Government. Government of Uttar Pradesh has reported that land is a State subject, but they have sought clearance from Department of Road, Transport & Highways for construction of the expressway on the suggestion of the Ganga Flood Control Board and in their view, the proposed expressway would not be a competing road to any on-going projects of National Highway Authority of India (NHAI). This Ministry is of the view that the proposed expressway would not generally present a problem for the projects of NHAI but that the impact in the stretch of about 200 km. beyond Kanpur on National Highway No. 2 would need to be carefully assessed.

Amount allocated and spent by NHAI

†2290. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated under NHAI for the financial year 2007-08;

(b) the amount spent so far out of the same;

(c) whether it is a fact that the completion of several projects is being delayed as the Authority is not having its own cadre; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.